DOCKET NO. 2003-11

IN THE MATTER § TEXAS STATE BOARD OF
OF THE LICENSE OF §
RUSSELL HICKS, D.V.M. § VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this, the 13th day of February, 2003 came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Russell Hicks, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, Respondent was invited to an informal conference held on January 7, 2003. Respondent waived his appearance. The Board was represented at the conference by the Board's Enforcement Committee.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a formal adjudicative hearing and thereby informally dispose of the compliance issues set out below. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to him.

Upon the recommendation of the Enforcement Committee and with Respondent's consent, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order as set forth below.

Findings of Fact

1. During a compliance inspection on August 23, 2002, a Board investigator determined that Russell Hicks, D.V.M., Marble Falls, Texas, did not possess a controlled substance registration from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The investigator determined that Dr. Hicks received his veterinary medical license on May 14, 1999 and had never acquired a registration from the DPS.

2. Dr. Hicks dispensed and administered controlled substances in his veterinary practice without a DPS certification during the period May, 1999 to September 9, 2002, the date of issuance of his new DPS registration.

Conclusions of Law

1. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's rules.
2. Based on Findings of Fact 1 and 2, Respondent has violated Rule 573.43, MISUSE OF DEA NARCOTICS REGISTRATION, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that a licensee may not prescribe, dispense, deliver or order delivered, any controlled substance unless the licensee is currently registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the DPS.

3. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, Respondent has violated Section 801.402 (6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board:

   801.402. GENERAL GROUNDS FOR LICENSE DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. A person is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.402 if the person:
   (6) engages in practices or conduct that violates the board’s rules of professional conduct.

4. Based on Conclusion of Law 3, Respondent may be disciplined in the manner set out in Section 801.401, DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD, of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, which may include revocation or suspension of a license, probation of a person whose license has been suspended, a reprimand, or a civil penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD AND RESPONDENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

The Board ORDERS that Respondent be officially REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent pay within 45 days of the date of this Order, a CIVIL PENALTY of two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00).

The Board further ORDERS that the Respondent take and pass the Board’s Jurisprudence Examination within 45 days of the date of this Order.

The Board further ORDERS that:

1. Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.

2. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board’s attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent’s compliance with this order.

3. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Agreed Order or with any
other provision of the Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth, and agrees that he will satisfactorily comply with the mandates of the Agreed Order in a timely manner or be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the Board.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, waives his right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that he is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent’s choice at his expense. Respondent has voluntarily represented himself.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. NOTHING IN THIS ORDER SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF RESPONDENT’S RIGHTS UNDER STATUTE OR UNDER THE UNITED STATES OR TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS TO APPEAL AN ORDER OR ACTION OF THE BOARD SUBSEQUENT TO THIS AGREED ORDER EXCEPT AS RESPONDENT MAY HAVE OTHERWISE AGREED TO HEREIN. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.

The date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

I, RUSSELL HICKS, HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

Russell Hicks, D.V.M. 1/24/03

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Bexar

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Russell Hicks, D.V.M., known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Agreed Order, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.
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Given under the hand and seal of office this 24th day of January, 2003

[Signature]
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the ______ day of ____________ 2003

[Signature]
J. Lynn Lawhon, D.V.M.
President of the Board